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S E C R E T COLOMBO 000277

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR SA, SA/INS, S/CT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2-18-13

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [PTER](#) [ETTC](#) [CE](#) [MV](#)

SUBJECT: MANPADS: Information for possible bilateral discussions with Sri Lanka and the Maldives

Ref: State 36352

(U) Classified by W. Lewis Amselem, Deputy Chief of Mission. Reasons 1.5 (b,d)

1. (S) Per Reftel, Mission's input for the request for information on Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) follows. Responses are keyed to the questions in Reftel Paras 7-13.

Sri Lanka

2. (S) Begin Text:

-- General Information: To our knowledge, the Sri Lankan military does not have any MANPADS. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is believed to have SA-14s that were made in Bulgaria. By law, all weapons going into and leaving Sri Lanka must be approved by the Ministry of Defense. The LTTE circumvents these laws on a regular basis by smuggling arms into Sri Lanka.

-- Government Cooperation: Mission expects that the GSL will cooperate with the USG on MANPADS issues. (Note: The GSL has allowed access to captured LTTE SA-14s in the past and has requested US assistance in identifying weapon origins.) The government's export control laws appear to be adequate, but the GSL is unable to enforce them re the LTTE.

-- Feasible Arguments: Mission believes the GSL would be receptive to an approach based on the need for responsible action to deal with MANPADS. The GSL is aware of the magnitude of the liability of an attack against civil aviation using MANPADS. (Note: Sri Lanka's international airport was attacked by the LTTE in July 2001 and four of the national air carriers' aircraft were destroyed. The nearby military airport was also attacked, and many planes and helicopters were destroyed in the incident.) Mission believes that the GSL would be responsive to any security-related approach regarding control of access to MANPADS.

-- Financial Incentives: Mission believes this section is not applicable. The GSL is not known to have any MANPADS and Mission believes the GSL would be responsive to USG concerns on the issue because of its own national interest in controlling access to MANPADS.

-- Other Incentives: Mission believes this section is not applicable. The GSL is not known to have any MANPADS and Mission believes the GSL would be responsive to USG concerns on the issues because of its own national interest in controlling access to MANPADS.

-- Government Contacts and Engagement Opportunities: Mission can contact key Ministers in the GSL and key individuals in the GSL's MFA and MoD on this issue. GSL interlocutors are available at the United Nations. Mission recommends initiating any dialogue with the government in Colombo, however.

End Text.

Maldives

3. (S) Begin Text:

-- General Information: To our knowledge, the Maldivian government does not have any MANPADS and would be receptive to initiatives on controlling access to MANPADS by the USG.

-- (Note: Mission believes the remaining sections are not applicable to the Maldives.)

End Text.

WILLS